

Defender Bycroft is standing by

PHIL Bycroft, who has not played since Wycombe Wanderers crashed out of the F.A. Trophy five weeks ago, stands by to return to the side for their Berger Isthmian League visit to Bromley tomorrow (Saturday), writes **MICHAEL KNOX**.

With injuries to two key defenders, Bycroft, who seems to have been made the scapegoat for that Sutton disaster (rather unfairly in my opinion), must stand a chance of returning to first team duty.

George Borg limped off the field during the 2-0 defeat at Enfield last week and must be doubtful, while central defender Keith Mead was hobbling badly with a leg strain.

Should neither pass fitness tests, Jimmy Jacobs, who filled in at right back for the last two matches could switch to Borg's left back role.

Paul Birdseye, whose

Football

switch to the centre of the defence against Enfield was not an outstanding success, would then return to his best right back position and Bycroft would come into the middle.

Call-up

After the defeat at Enfield which knocked them off the top of the table, manager Mike Keen said he was not satisfied with the performances of his front three who had played so well against Dulwich the previous week.

For that reason Terry Scott, whose imminent departure for the United States had led to his playing in the Reserves, could get a first team call-up. Ken Wilson, Saturday's substitute may also come into contention, to start the match on the field, rather than on the bench.

With Slough drawing at Hendon, Wycombe are still in the title race, but they cannot afford another slip-up tomorrow. Defeat would just about end their chances of lifting the Premier Division championship.

They are not at their best on heavy grounds and Bromley's pitch is sure to be that after torrential rain all week. Unless it stops raining soon, the match must be in jeopardy.

At least Wycombe know that they have already beaten them comfortably this season. At Loakes Park in November scores by Terry Glynn, Tony Price, Steve Long, Mick Holifield and an own goal gave the Blues a 5-0 victory.

Exciting

Bromley still have the basis of the same side since that heavy defeat although they, too, have been hit by injury. Mid-field man Dick Clarke is out with a groin strain while Steve Tomlin has an injured ankle.

Coming into the side is the exciting Junior Crooks, while leading scorer Butch Dunn is sure to pose problems for Wycombe's likely remodelled defence. Goalkeeper Malcolm Broadway is rated one of the best in the league, although he had a nightmare match in the first encounter between the clubs.

Schools match attracts £500 in sponsorship

SUCH has been the public response to High Wycombe Under-15s' run in the English Schools' Trophy, that the organisers have already obtained £500 in sponsorship for their semi-final against East London at Loakes Park on Monday, March 23.

Five local companies have stepped forward to give their support to a match that should attract a crowd of more than 3,000 to the ground as Wycombe aim to reach the final for the first time in their history.

Toughest

The sponsoring firms so far are Volvo Concessionaires at Cressex; Ward International Motors, William Vere Ltd, Cruickshanks estate agents, and Protim from Marlow.

With this backing, Wycombe Schools F.A. are aiming to produce their own programme as well as providing special sweaters for members of the team. The or-

ganisers hope to make this match something special, in case their side does not get into the final.

This will certainly be Wycombe's toughest match to date. As well as possessing the England schoolboys captain, David Kerslake, East London have a history of success in this competition.

They won the title outright when beating Oxford in 1976 and lost to Liverpool in both the 1967 and 1970 finals. So it is about time they had another good run.

East London or Wycombe should know next week the identity of their prospective final opponents. The other semi-final between Sunderland and South London takes place at Roker Park on Monday, with the north-easterners marginal favourites because of ground advantage.

The dream-final for Wycombe must be a two-legged match against Sunderland, but there is many a slip twixt cup and lip, and the lads will not be too complacent even though they are at home once again.



MIKE KEEN
... second award

Mike did not budget for this!

WHILE the rest of us were grumbling about the increasing costs of spirits in the Budget, Wycombe Wanderers boss Mike Keen could not have cared less.

For it was on Tuesday that he heard that for the second time this season he had been elected as the Berger Isthmian League Premier Division manager of the month.

Mike's prize after a successful February in which his side went top of the league with three wins and a draw, is a gallon bottle of the Real Mackenzie whisky. He had previously won the award in November.

Stunned

The Blues boss was stunned by the decision, which means that he will have three gallon bottles of whisky at his home, as he once won a similar award with Northampton Town.

"I've kept the other two to give as presents to my sons when they come of age. I don't know what I'll do with this one. I didn't expect it," said Mr Keen after the Bucks Free Press had told him of his award.

"I'm naturally very pleased for the side, as we were unbeaten during the month. It reflects great credit on their performance," he said.

All three divisional winners this month are receiving a second prize of the season, namely Trevor Harvey of Bishop's Stortford (Division One) and Jimmy Kelman, manager of Division Two side Hungerford Town.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	33	18	11	4	54	28	65
Wycombe	36	19	8	9	63	41	65
Enfield	34	18	8	8	64	40	62
Harrow	34	15	9	10	50	38	54
Sutton	31	14	10	7	57	44	52
Ley'stone	31	14	8	9	56	44	50
Dagenham	33	13	9	11	62	54	48
Bromley	34	13	8	13	53	56	47
Hayes	32	14	5	13	31	37	47
Staines	34	12	8	14	48	48	44
Hendon	34	12	8	14	51	52	44
Tooting	37	13	5	19	41	48	44
Dulwich	35	11	10	14	53	57	43
*Barking	37	11	12	14	50	60	43
Carshalton	31	12	4	15	43	58	40
Waltham	32	12	4	16	36	52	40
Harlow	33	9	12	12	39	48	39
L'head	35	8	13	14	28	41	37
Croydon	31	7	15	9	30	30	36
Hitchin	30	9	8	13	43	39	35
B'ham Wood	32	9	8	15	40	55	35
Woking	35	10	5	20	35	57	35

*2 points deducted.

HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	19	17	2	0	50	14	36
Hazells	24	12	7	5	44	30	31
Thame Utd	23	11	8	4	38	16	30
Flackwell	23	12	6	5	41	21	30
Moreton	23	11	6	6	57	27	28
Abingdon T	22	11	6	5	43	28	28
Fairford	25	13	2	10	41	34	28
Forest G	20	9	5	6	42	39	23
Mal'd'head T	24	9	4	11	35	39	22
Bicester	26	5	11	10	34	50	21
Kidlington	25	7	6	12	31	45	20
Didcot	22	5	9	8	24	37	19
Northwood	23	6	6	11	31	39	18
Morris Mot	26	5	6	14	31	52	16
Wallingfd	25	6	3	16	32	66	15
Abingdon U	26	4	3	19	27	64	11